

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**1. A filter element for use in a housing comprising:**

a pleated filter media, having first and second edges and first and second ends, the pleated media being folded to define upstream peaks and downstream peaks, the upstream peaks laying in a first plane to define a filter inlet face and the downstream peaks laying in a second plane to define a filter outlet face; the upstream and downstream peaks having parallel troughs therebetween, the troughs having the terminuses at the first and second ends of the filter media;

a frame for supporting the filter media, the frame having first and second side plate portions for engaging and sealing the terminuses of the troughs; the frame further having laterally extending flanges disposed above the filter inlet face, each flange having an upper first surface sloping toward the filter inlet face forming a concavity around the filter inlet face for directing liquid to be filtered toward the inlet face and a second face for sealing with the housing.

2. The filter element of claim 1, wherein the frame is made of Nylon® material.

3. The filter element of claim 3, wherein two of the flanges extend parallel to the troughs of the pleated filter media and two of the flanges extend perpendicular to the troughs of the pleated filter media.

4. The filter element of claim 3, wherein the flanges each have a bottom surface which slope downwardly toward the filter media.

5. The filter element of claim 4, wherein the coupling arrangement comprises an array of openings through the flanges for receiving fastening posts.

6. The filter element of claim 1 further including a coupling arrangement associated with the flange for securing the filter element in the housing.

7. The filter element of claim 6, wherein the coupling arrangement comprises an array of openings through the flanges for receiving fastening posts.

8. In combination, the filter element and housing of claim 1, wherein the housing is an oil pan for transmission fluid, the housing including an upper chamber and a sump between which the filter element is disposed.

9. The combination of claim 8, wherein the sump has an entrance and a land is provided at the sump entrance which land has surface complementing the lower surfaces of the flanges.

10. The combination of claim 9, wherein a gasket is disposed between the land and the lower surfaces of the flanges.

12. The combination of claim 11, wherein the sump has a base and wherein a return line is disposed proximate the base for returning filtered oil from the oil pan to a transmission.

13. The combination of claim 12, wherein the pan has a plurality of interior surfaces all of which slope toward the sump.

14. The combination of claim 8, wherein the pan has a plurality of interior surfaces all of which slope toward the sump.

15. The combination of claim 14, wherein the sump has a base and a return line is disposed proximate the base for returning filtered oil from the oil pan to a transmission.

16. The combination of claim 14, wherein the sump has an entrance and a land is provided at the sump entrance which land has surface complementing the second faces of the flanges.

17. The combination of claim 16, wherein a gasket is disposed between the land and the lower surfaces of the flanges.

18. The combination of claim 17, wherein the housing has an axis which aligns with a direction of travel axis of a vehicle with which the oil pan is used and wherein the peaks and troughs of the filter media extend parallel to the axis.

19. The combination of claim 8, wherein the housing has an axis which aligns with a direction of travel axis of a vehicle with which the oil pan is used and wherein the peaks and troughs of the filter media extend parallel to the axis.

20. In combination, the filter element and the housing of claim 1, wherein the housing is an oil pan for engine lubricating oil, the housing including an upper chamber and a sump between which the filter element is disposed.

21. The combination of claim 20, wherein the housing has an axis which aligns with a direction of travel axis of a vehicle with which the oil pan is used wherein the peaks and troughs of the filter media extend parallel to the axis.

22. The combination of claim 21, wherein the pan has a plurality of interior surfaces all of which slope toward the sump.

23. The combination of claim 22, wherein the sump has a base and wherein a return line is disposed proximate the base for returning filtered oil from the oil pan to a transmission.

24. The combination of claim 23, wherein the return line is unitary with the pan.

25. The combination of claim 12, wherein the return line is unitary with the pan.

26. the combination of claim 20, wherein the sump is separable from the housing and further including fastening members for detachably mounting the sump to the housing, whereby the filter element is changed without detaching the housing.

27. The combination of claim 8, wherein the sump is separable from the housing and further including fastening members for detachably mounting the sump to the housing, whereby the filter element is changed without detaching the housing.